

# Asp, or Adder

This document focuses on the **asp, or adder**, and its Biblical symbolism.

- The adder is described as **dangerous to travelers, venomous, and not able to be charmed**. Verses from Genesis, Job, and Psalms support this.
- The adder is **illustrative** of several things:
  - **Obstinate rejecters of God's word** (Psalm 58:4-5)
  - **The enemies of God's people** (Psalm 91:13)
  - **The speech of the wicked** (Psalm 140:3; Romans 3:13)
  - **The injurious effects of wine** (Deuteronomy 32:33; Proverbs 23:32)
  - **The effects of conversion** (Isaiah 11:8-9)

The document primarily uses verses from the Old Testament to describe the adder and its symbolism. The adder's venom and its resistance to charms are key aspects of its symbolism, representing danger, wickedness, and the negative consequences of sin. However, the final illustrative point offers a contrasting image, where the adder's venom is removed, symbolizing the transformative power of conversion and God's knowledge.

## ***Dangerous to travelers.***

**Genesis 49:17.** Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an Adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.

## ***DESCRIBED AS***

### **Venomous.**

**Job 20:14.** Yet his meat in his Bowels is turned, it is the gall of Asps within him.

**Job 20:16.** He shall suck the poison of Asps: the viper's tongue shall slay him.

## ***Not to be charmed.***

**Psalms 58:5.** Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.



## *ILLUSTRATIVE*

### **Of obstinate rejecters of God's Word.**

**Psalms 58:4-5.** Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf Adder that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.

### **Of the enemies of God's people.**

**Psalms 91:13.** Thou shalt tread upon the lion and Adder: the young lion and the Dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

### **(Venom of), of the speech of the wicked.**

**Psalms 140:3.** They have sharpened their Tongues like a serpent; Adders' poison is under their lips. Selah.

**Romans 3:13.** Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their Tongues they have used deceit; the poison of Asps is under their lips:

### **(Venom of), of injurious effects of wine.**

**Deuteronomy 32:33.** Their wine is the poison of dragons, and the cruel venom of Asps.

**Proverbs 23:32.** At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an Adder.

### **(Deprived of its venom), of the effects of conversion.**

**Isaiah 11:8-9.** And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the Asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the Cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.